



Colin and Makayla Isenor were pleased to see so many ballots in the grocery draw. One lucky person was going to have a stocked pantry for awhile.

## Debert Elementary Notes

### DEBERT ELEMENTARY RAISES FUNDS TO HELP ORPHANAGE IN HAITI

**A letter of appreciation was received from the director at the Messéf Orphanage, Haiti, on behalf of the 50 children who live there and the 250 children who go to the school based at Messéf. This is the third year Debert Elementary has held a fund raiser to help the people of Haiti. (Harrington Photos)**

By Erma Cox

A return to school on January 3 has seen students at Debert Elementary School busier than ever. We have launched a scavenger hunt for our community on the website with some fun and exciting prizes. Students are delving in to a day of literacy activities on January 27th as we celebrate Family Literacy Day and teachers are madly trying to prepare for our midterm reports. All of this while we face the bitter cold temperatures of the past few days that force us to keep the children in and thus they do not get the

opportunity to be as active as we would like.

We are very excited that to date we have registered 27 new boys and girls for grade primary. Should you have or know of a child who turns five before December 31st, 2012 and who has not yet registered please encourage their parents to call the school to register. We want to insure that we give all our families an opportunity to have their child visit with us and learn more about how much fun it is to attend Debert Elementary.

On January 3rd we welcomed a new international teacher into our

grade one class. Ms. Menezes is here for the month of January and hails from Brazil. She treated the Mrs. Higgins' class to a presentation of her home country this month so they could do some comparing of Canada and Brazil - quite a difference in temperature for one thing. Ms. Menezes did a similar presentation to the grade six class before she finished her stay on the 27th of January. She came to Debert to learn more about the teachings in Canadian schools so that she might take this knowledge back to Brazil and apply it to her classrooms there.

With cold weather and the variance in temperature that we have experienced this month has come many sicknesses. The school has asked custodians to be extra vigilant about wiping down surfaces that are constantly being touched by numerous individuals. We hope that our efforts in this area along with encouraging healthy eating habits will reduce both the spread of germs and the cause for absenteeism.

PTG in conjunction with the school is busy planning for Winter Carnival. We went skating on the 17th of February and later on that evening students were treated to a Winter Carnival Dance. This dance was for families to attend as a unit and will wrap up a fun filled week of activities. We would also like to remind anyone who wishes to volunteer in our school that they need to complete a volunteer package which can be picked up at the office.

Primary students watched



Emma and Lauren Stevenson fill out their names for some of the prize draws. Area businesses and friends of the school donated very generous prizes.



Jesse Thomas played guitar and sang a few tunes to entertain the crowd.

closely to see if March was going to come in like a lion or lamb so they could predict the weather for the end of the month. Although the weather was clear on the first of March the temperatures dipped well below -15 degrees Celsius making the children determine that it would be much nicer at the end of the month. I see the weather lately has made them feel quite confident in their predictions that March will go out like a lamb. Cindy Day better watch out as these young forecasters may be looking for her job in the near future. Primary students also hosted our February assembly with songs and chants about the days of the week and the weather.

Students throughout the school have been busy preparing for our third annual Haiti fundraiser to be held on March 22 at 6:30 at the school. This event will include a silent and live auction, 50/50 draw, a grocery box draw and a free lunch put on by the staff. We look forward to seeing many of our friends out to help us with this very worthy cause. It has been determined this year that all funds will go to assist with an orphanage in Northern Haiti.

Students have returned from a well deserved March Break with lots of excitement for third term. Some students attended camps sponsored by Tim Horton's, NSCC or drama groups while others spent their March Break down south and some enjoyed the leisure time here at home playing hockey, swimming or partaking in sleepovers with friends. With the return to school we see students preparing for the Concours, a French speaking contest; getting work done on the next edition of the DES News, renewing their reading mentorships; and delving into numerous leadership opportunities. Students and community are also being encouraged to participate in physical activities including Zumba classes that are being offered at the school on Monday evenings from 5:30 - 6:00 pm for students and from 6-7pm for any adults wishing to join us.

# Used Clothing Sale

## PLANNED FOR JUNE 2

By Linda Shears

The leather workshop which took place during March break was attended by fifteen young people and adults who showed enthusiasm and creativity, according to instructor Jeff Maluske.

The jewellery workshop was a success as well, with another jewellery project planned for next month. Nance Akerman has returned from her travels and will resume the interviews with senior residents.

The "Budget Cooking and School Lunches" workshop sponsored by CALA is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, at 7:00 PM. The event is free but pre-registration is required.

Another event being planned is a used clothing sale on Saturday, June 2, at the school gym. Vendors will be able to rent a table for \$15.

In response to e-mails requesting specific programs at the Community Centre, Heather is organizing a

Fitness and Healthy Lifestyles program similar to the one offered a couple of years ago (called Melt Down). Doreen Howard, holistic nutritionist/wellness coach, will be guiding the program, with an emphasis on nutrition, healthy lifestyle and exercise.

It is being planned for a ten-week period, beginning April 16, with a weekly weigh-in combined with information sessions. For the fitness component of the program, group walking sessions are planned for Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 PM.

If you are on the e-mail list, you will receive updates with more details on the above events. Otherwise, you can contact Heather McKay at greatvillagelearningnetwork@gmail.com or at 668-2501.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 16, at 7:00 PM. Please join us if you have an interest in community events.

As you are no doubt aware this time of year brings with it some news from the province around budgeting issues that always leave us somewhat stressed. You are encouraged to regularly check the CCRSB website for the latest news on this issue as once again the school board will be faced with a budget reduction.

We are unsure of the particulars as to how this will impact our school but will make every attempt to keep parents and the community updated as information becomes available. School Advisory Councils will be actively involved in decisions and offer

leadership as we move forward in this process.

In closing I would add that the WOW reading challenge has been a huge success. Students have recorded their accomplishments daily and the charting of successes has allowed the students the opportunity to become more immersed in literature.

This challenge has also supported our efforts towards accreditation as students are becoming more aware of the differences in printed materials and the information that can be drawn from different sources. Keep up the great work Debert and Read ON.



Debert Elementary has some very generous grandmothers! Lucas Rushton, Morgen Barnes, Cameron Barnes and Nina Green hold up two of the wonderful boxes filled with baked goods.



Not sure if it was the enthusiastic auctioneering of Tony Prinsen (left) or the cute kids displaying the goodies (maybe a little of both!) but this box of baked goods brought in a very high bid of \$102.50. Right to left: Brody Shearer, Marlee Green, Madison Shearer and Nina Green.

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## Municipality of the County of Colchester

### Low Income Tax Exemption

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE - MAY 11, 2012**

Residential property owners may be eligible for an exemption on their 2012/2013 property taxes, up to a maximum of \$ 277.86. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy the property and fall into one of the categories in the table below:

| Family Size         | Gross Income       | Exemption |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| single              | Less than \$22,154 | \$166.72  |
| family of 2         | Less than \$29,150 | \$222.28  |
| family of 3 or more | Less than \$34,980 | \$277.86  |

Gross Income refers to the total gross income from all sources for the calendar year ending December 31, 2011. This must include the income of all members of the household, except full-time students, however, you should not include income from the following sources:

1. War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada);
2. Pension from Veterans Affairs Canada;
3. Child Tax Benefit; or
4. GST Rebate

Application forms will automatically be mailed to last year's successful applicants. If you did not receive the exemption last year, you may obtain an application from the Municipal Tax Office, 1 Church Street Truro, or by calling 897-3150.

For income verification purposes, please bring a **COPY** of your 2011 Income Tax **FILING FORM**, which you submitted to Revenue Canada, when submitting your application.

Dan McDougall  
Chief Administrative Officer